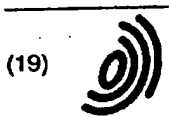


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(54) Valve unit for high-pressure pumps

(57) Valve unit, particularly for high-pressure pumps, comprising a cage maintained in position by a screwed plug and containing a valve disc and a valve seat, the screwed plug having a threaded shank provided with an annular groove for a seal gasket in contact with the inner wall of the cavity which receives the valve unit, said annular groove for receiving said seal gasket being positioned adjacent to that end of said thread close to the valve unit, and being inserted into a portion of the plug receiving cavity having a diameter less than the outer diameter of the plug thread.

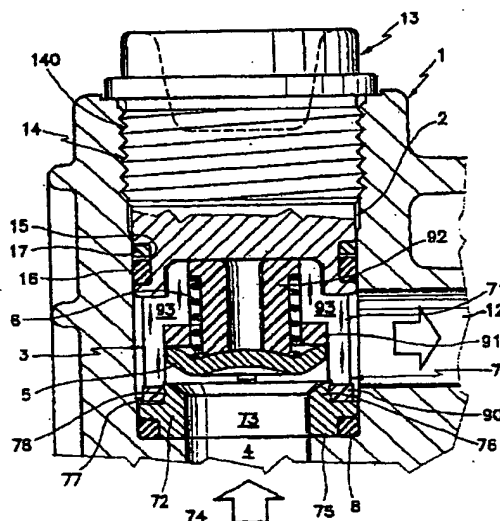


FIG. 2

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Description

[0001] This invention relates to high-pressure pumps, and more specifically to the intake and delivery valves thereof.

[0002] In high-pressure pumps the intake and pressurized fluid delivery valves are among the components subjected to greatest wear, and consequently require frequent replacement.

[0003] To facilitate this operation, the manufacturers of this type of pump make these valves accessible from the outside. In particular, they are inserted into a cylindrical chamber formed within the pump body and maintained in position by a retention plug, which also prevents fluid seepage to the outside of the pump.

[0004] The plug is subjected to a very high outward thrust, due to the liquid pressure which can reach more than 200 atmospheres, and is maintained in position by a thread.

[0005] A seal gasket positioned between said thread and the end of the plug provides the liquid seal.

[0006] With this type of arrangement, during pump operation the pressurized fluid necessarily wets the plug thread, giving rise to incrustation due to deposits from the pumped fluids, which make it difficult to unscrew the plug to replace the valve.

[0007] In addition the gasket seals about a diameter which is necessarily greater than the maximum diameter of the threaded part of the plug, with negative consequences on the thrust which the pumped liquid exerts on the plug.

[0008] The object of the invention is to obviate these and further drawbacks, and is attained by providing a valve unit, suitable for operation both on the delivery side and on the intake side, in which the seal means, namely the gasket, is provided at the end of the threaded part of the plug, in proximity to the valve unit, so as to prevent the pressurized liquid coming into contact with the plug thread.

[0009] This solution enables that cross-section of the retention plug exposed to the pressure of the pumped fluid to be reduced, with consequent thrust reduction and less stressing of the construction material of said retention plug.

[0010] The constructional and functional characteristics of the invention will be more apparent from the ensuing description of a preferred embodiment thereof given by way of non-limiting example and illustrated on the accompanying drawings.

Figure 1 is a section through the head of the pump according to the invention.

Figure 2 is an enlarged view of the part comprising the delivery valve unit, which is identical to the intake valve unit.

[0011] The figures show the pump body 1 within which

there is formed the cylindrical cavity 2, having three cross-sections of decreasing diameter in the direction of the valve 3, which is inserted as far as its base.

[0012] The base of the cylindrical cavity 2 communicates with the pressurized fluid feed conduit 4.

[0013] The valve 3 comprises the profiled valving element 5, which is maintained in the closure position by the spring 6.

[0014] The spring and valving element are contained in a cage-shaped valve body 7, which comprises an upper containing part 71 and a lower part 72 which is snap-inserted into the bottom of the upper part 71.

[0015] The upper part 71 is of synthetic resin construction, the lower part 72, of cylindrical shape, being of metal and provided with a through hole 73 coaxial with the longitudinal axis, through which the pressurized fluid is fed. Said hole 73 has an upper enlargement 74 forming the valve seat. In addition, the lower part 72 is provided with a protuberance 75 to receive a gasket 8 of O-ring type, and an upper protuberance 76, in the vertical wall 77 of which there is provided a groove 78 for its snap-connection to the upper part 71.

[0016] As stated, said upper part 71 is in the shape of a cage of synthetic material construction, formed from two rings 90 and 91 and a hollow central core 92, these being connected together by four equidistant profiled ribs 93.

[0017] The lower surface of the hollow central core 92 has a contour such as to adhere perfectly to the upper surface of the underlying profiled valving element 5.

[0018] Said profiled valving element 5 acts against the spring 6, and is guided by the four profiled ribs 93. In Figure 1 it is in a position which enables pressurized fluid to pass and enter the cylindrical cavity 2 via the feed conduit 4, to leave it through the conduit 12.

[0019] The valve 3 is maintained in position by the overlying retention plug 13, the shank 14 of which has two different cross-sections. The first of said cross-sections is threaded to enable it to be fitted to the pump body 1, whereas the second has an annular groove 15 receiving a seal gasket 16 and a ring 17, preferably of teflon.

[0020] The presence of the seal gasket 16 downstream of the thread 140 prevents the pressurized liquid wetting the thread 140, so preventing the formation of incrustation.

[0021] It is also apparent that the position of the gasket 16, by virtue of the smaller surface area subtended by it, results in a reduction in the thrust exerted on the plug by the pressurized liquid by at least about 25%.

[0022] The foregoing is also valid for the intake valve unit, shown in Figure 1, which is constructionally identical to the delivery valve unit.

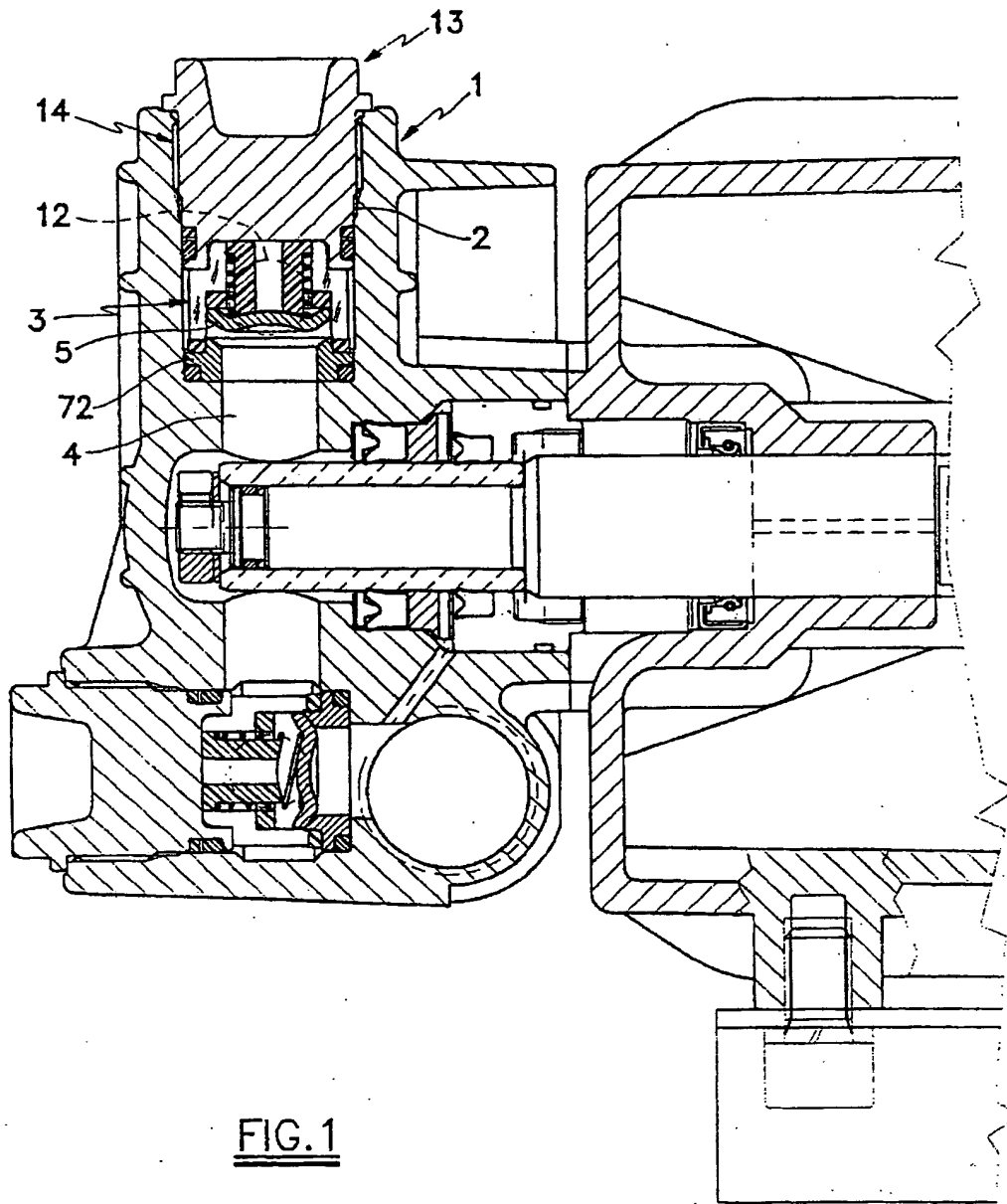
Claims

1. A valve unit, particularly for high-pressure pumps, comprising a cage maintained in position by a

screwed plug and containing a valve disc and a valve seat, the screwed plug having a threaded shank provided with an annular groove for a seal gasket in contact with the inner wall of the cavity which receives the valve unit, characterised in that said annular groove for receiving said seal gasket is positioned adjacent to that end of said thread close to the valve unit, and is inserted into a portion of the plug receiving cavity having a diameter less than the outer diameter of the plug thread.

2. A valve unit as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the retention plug comprises a central cavity for receiving the upper portion of the cage containing the valve unit.

3. A valve unit as claimed in claim 1, characterised in that the cage-shaped upper part is of resin construction, whereas the lower part comprising the valve seat is of steel construction.



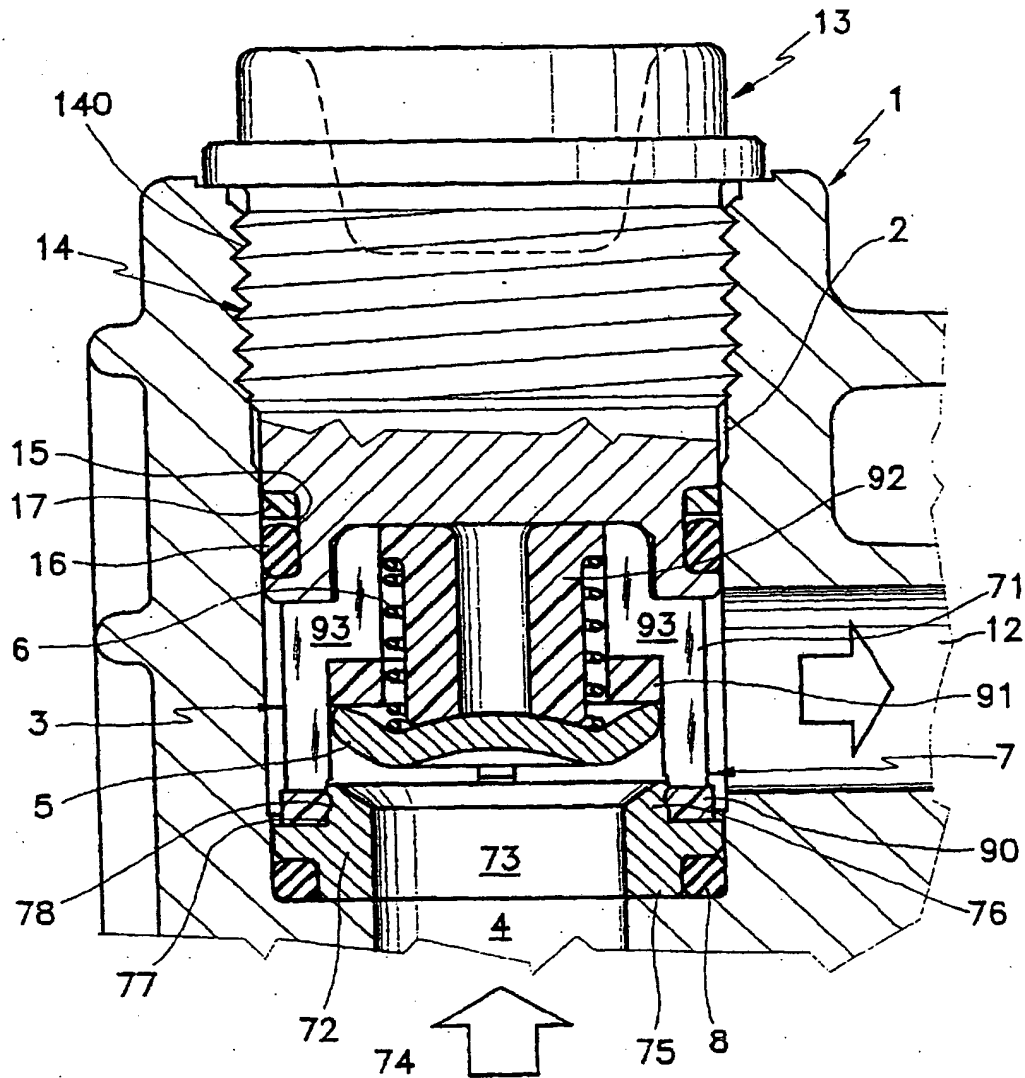
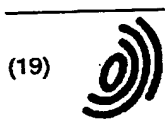


FIG. 2



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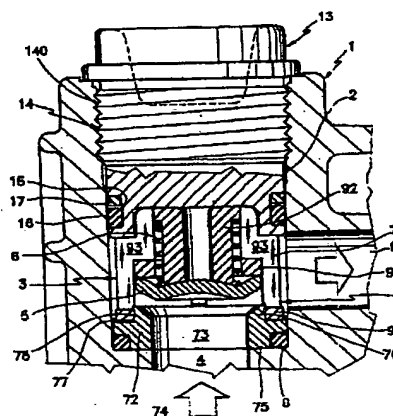


FIG.2

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 20 3052

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Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 22 February 2000	Examiner Ingelbrecht, P
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